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Signed: Raquel GraeberIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

SHARKEY et al.

Examiner:

To be assigned

Serial No.:

To be assigned

Group Art Unit:

To be assigned

Filing Date:

June 29, 2001

For:

**Surgical Instrument Having
Distal Face with First and Second
Electrodes**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**Box PATENT APPLICATION FEE**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment should be considered before examination of the referenced application.

IN THE TITLE

Amend the title to read as follows:

Surgical Instrument Having Distal Face with First and Second Electrodes

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 20, line 31 and continuing to Page 21, line 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIGS. 18A-C illustrate a further alternative embodiment of the electrosurgical aspiration instrument 1810 of the present invention in which the active and return electrodes 1822, 1824 lie in the same plane at the distal end 1812 of elongate probe member or shaft 1834. The active and return electrodes are substantially configured similarly such that the two conductors 1816 and